

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: DEPUTY MINISTER SEMENOV'S STATEMENT OF JULY 21, 1976

THE FOLLOWING IS STATEMENT DELIVERED BY DEPUTY MINISTER
SEMENOV AT THE SALT TWO MEETING OF JULY 21, 1976

QUOTE

AT THE JULY 7, 1976 MEETING, AND ALSO IN THE COURSE OF
THE JULY 13, 1976 HEADS OF DELEGATION MEETING, THE U.S.
DELEGATION PRESENTED CONSIDERATIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE
U.S. PROPOSAL ON REACHING AGREEMENT ON THE BASE NUMBERS BY
CATEGORY OF THE STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS POSSESSED BY EACH
SIDE AS OF THE DATE OF SIGNATURE OF THE AGREEMENT, AND ON
SUBSEQUENT PERIODIC REPORTING OF CHANGES TO THESE NUMBERS IN
THE STANDING CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION.

WE HAVE CAREFULLY REFLECTED ON THE CONSIDERATIONS
YOU EXPRESSED.

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THE AIDE-MEMOIRE OF DECEMBER 10, 1974, AS YOU KNOW, RECORDS THE AGREEMENT ON ESTABLISHING EQUAL OVERALL NUMERICAL LIMITS OF 2,400 AND 1,320 FOR STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS. IN THIS CONNECTION, WITHIN THE OVERALL LIMITS BEING ESTABLISHED AND SUBJECT TO COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER RELEVANT PROVISIONS OF THE NEW AGREEMENT, THE SIDES ARE FREE TO DETERMINE THE COMPOSITION OF THE STRATEGIC ARMS BEING LIMITED. THE PROVISIONS OF THE AIDE-MEMOIRE CONTAIN NOTHING THAT WOULD PERTAIN TO ANY KIND OF OTHER UNDERSTANDING BY THE DATE OF SIGNATURE OF THE NEW AGREEMENT, WHICH WOULD CONCERN THE COMPOSITION OF SYSTEMS BEING LIMITED. THIS IS ACKNOWLEDGED BY THE U.S. SIDE AS WELL.

THE DATA BASE PROPOSAL YOU HAVE SET FORTH HERE ALSO DOES NOT CONFORM TO THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE OF VERIFICATION BY NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS, ADOPTED AT THE NEGOTIATIONS, FOR IT IS PRECISELY ACTUAL COMPLIANCE WITH THE LIMITATIONS BEING ESTABLISHED UNDER THE NEW AGREEMENT THAT IS SUBJECT TO VERIFICATION BY SUCH MEANS, AND NOT AT ALL THE DATA CONCERNING WHICH IT IS PROPOSED TO REACH AGREEMENT AND WHICH IT IS PROPOSED TO EXCHANGE SUBSEQUENTLY WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SCC.

I WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIZE AGAIN THAT ALL OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE AGREEMENT BEING WORKED OUT, TAKEN IN THEIR TOTALITY, SERVE THE PURPOSE OF ENSURING THE NECESSARY CONFIDENCE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE OBLIGATIONS BEING ASSUMED BY THE SIDES.

LET US TAKE, FOR EXAMPLE, THE QUESTION OF DEFINITIONS OF THE SYSTEMS BEING LIMITED, ON WHICH THE DELEGATIONS ARE WORKING. GIVEN A UNIFORM UNDERSTANDING BY THE SIDES WITH RESPECT TO THE DEFINITIONS OF ARMS SUBJECT TO LIMITATIONS WITHIN THE OVERALL LIMITS BEING ESTABLISHED, THERE WILL ALSO BE NO DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN WHAT THE SIDES ACTUALLY POSSESS IN TERMS OF THE STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS BEING LIMITED UNDER THE NEW AGREEMENT AND WHAT IS OBSERVED BY NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS. MOREOVER, THIS WOULD BE TRUE BOTH ON THE DATE OF SIGNATURE OF THE NEW AGREEMENT AND ALSO THROUGHOUT ITS ENTIRE TERM, DURING WHICH CERTAIN CHANGES COULD OCCUR IN THE COMPOSITION OF THE SIDES' SYSTEMS BEING LIMITED. PERFORMANCE BY THE
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SCC OF ITS FUNCTIONS AS THEY ARE SPECIFIED BY THE PROVISIONS WHICH ARE AGREED AND WHICH ARE BASED ON EXPERIENCE, WILL CONTRIBUTE TO A SMOOTH PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTING THE AGREEMENT, AND, TOGETHER WITH THE NEGOTIATIONS ON FURTHER LIMITATION AND REDUCTION OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS, PROVIDED FOR IN THE AGREED ARTICLE XV OF THE DRAFT, WILL CREATE THE NECESSARY STABILITY.

IN OTHER WORDS, THE QUESTION OF DATA BASE DOES NOT ARISE EITHER IN ANY SPECIFIC AREA OR, IN GENERAL, WITH RESPECT TO THE NEW AGREEMENT. THE PROPOSAL FOR AN UNDERSTANDING ON A DATA BASE, REGARDLESS OF HOW IT IS PROPOSED TO REACH SUCH AN UNDERSTANDING, CASTS DOUBT UPON NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS OF VERIFICATION AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR ENSURING CONFIDENCE IN COMPLIANCE BY THE SIDES WITH THE LIMITATIONS TO BE ESTABLISHED. HOWEVER, ANY WEAKENING OF THE AGREED PRINCIPLE OF VERIFICATION BY NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS WOULD MEAN UNDERMINING ONE OF THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE AGREEMENT BEING WORKED OUT; THIS WOULD NOT BE IN THE INTERESTS OF EITHER SIDE AND WOULD RUN COUNTER TO THE OBJECTIVES AND TASKS OF THE ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS.

AN UNBIASED ANALYSIS SHOWS THAT THE PROPOSAL FOR AN UNDERSTANDING ON DATA BASE, NOT ENSUING FROM EXISTING SOVIET-U.S. UNDERSTANDINGS AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL, AND BEING CONTRARY TO THE PRINCIPLE OF VERIFICATION BY NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS, IS NOT AT ALL DICTATED BY THE OBJECTIVES OF THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS AND WOULD ACTUALLY ONLY LEAD TO CREATING COMPLETELY UNJUSTIFIED DIFFICULTIES IN THE WORK OF THE DELEGATIONS.

I WOULD LIKE TO NOTE THAT THE SIDES HAVE COME CLOSER TOGETHER IN UNDERSTANDING THAT A REFERENCE TO THE PROTOCOL TO THE INTERIM AGREEMENT CANNOT BE REGARDED AS A PRECEDENT FOR AGREEMENT ON A DATA BASE IN CONNECTION WITH THE NEW AGREEMENT BEING WORKED OUT.

PROCEEDING FROM THE AGOVE, THE SOVIET SIDE DOES NOT ACCEPT THE U.S. PROPOSAL ON DATA BASE. UNQUOTE. JOHNSON

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